(b) whether Government have any proposal to include Druga Hatkoti Temple of Himachal Pradesh for developing it is a Tourist centre during the next financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Development of Tourism Infrastructure including Pilgrim Centres is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, provides financial assistance to the States for projects/ schemes which are prioritised in consultation with them every year. The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments have identified 46 Pilgrim Centres for tourism development in the country at places such as Tirupati, Bodhgaya, Nizammudin, Ujjain, Amritsar, Rameshwarm, etc. and an amount of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs has been allocated for pilgrim centres during 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) No proposal from State Government for development of Durga Hatkoti Temple (H.P.) as a tourist centre, has been received during financial year 1999-2000. However, Central Government has provided financial assistance for construction of a Tourist Lodge as Hatkoti in 1987-88.

Decline in Tourist inflow to Orissa

1357. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the flow of tourist to Orissa State after recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to make adequate publicity to assure the tourist on their safety;

(d) the safety measures adopted by Government; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary reasons for the decline in flow of tourist in Orissa include complete disruption of communication links by rail, air and roads due to super cyclone and apprehensions of dislocation of basic amenities in the mind of tourists.

(c) to (e) Various steps taken to make adequate publicity to assure the tourists on their safety include advertisement indicating the normal situation in the State, message on web site on Orissa and publicity of normalcy through Govt. of India Tourist Offices, Tourist Offices of State Governments, leading travel agents and tour operators.

Development of Prayagraj as Major Tourist Centre

†1358. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governement are going to start any programme for attracting foreign tourists towards the Prayagraj (Allahabad), the oldest pilgrimage centre of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to promote tourism under the new tourism policy; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism infrastructure including Pilgrim Centres is mainly the responsibility of State Government. Ministry of Tourism provides Financial Assistance to the State for projects/schemes prioritised for every year in consultation with them to attract foreign and domestic tourists. The

†Original notice of the question, received in Hindi.